

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2227
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AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL BUKAVU

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUBUMBASHI 0885

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PGOV,PINT, CG
SUBJECT: SHABA'S LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS

REF: LUBUMBASHI 0867

1. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS IN LUBUMBASHI OVER WEEKEND OF OCTOBER 15-16 WENT MORE SMOOTHLY THAN URBAN ZONE COUNCIL ELECTIONS OF PREVIOUS WEEK. REPORT FROM KOLWEZI AND LIKASI ALSO SOW FEW VOTING PROBLEMS. SEVERAL VOTERS CRITICAL OF PREVIOUS WEEKS ELECTIONS COMMENTED ON BETTER ORGANIZATION: SHORTER LINES, VOTING FINISHED BY NOON IN MANY PLACES, FREER CHOICE OF CANDIDATES, AND FEWER REQUESTS FOR MONEY FROM SOLDIERS IN ORDER TO VOTE. ALSO FEWER SIGNS OF BLATANT TRIBALISM.

2. SMOOTHER ELECTION OPERATIONS DUE HEAVILY TO EFFORTS BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN FREQUENT OBSERVERS AT POLLING PLACES. DURING FIRST ELECTION REGIONAL COMMISSIONER EFAMBE REPORTEDLY DISARMED SOLDIER PERSONALLY WHO WAS HARASSING A WOMAN AND SENTENCED HIM TO JAIL, A STORY WHICH QUICKLY
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MADE ROUNDS. DEPUTY REGIONAL COMMISSIONER ALEMA HELD MEETING OF ALL PRESIDENTS OF POLLING PLACES ON OCTOBER 11 WHERE HE STRESSED NEED FOR MATURITY, HONESTY AND CONSCIENTIOUSNESS IN THEIR WORK.

3. 286 CANDIDATES HAD PRESENTED THEMSELVES FOR SHABA'S 35 SEATS, ONE FOR EVERY 100,000 PEOPLE WITH

ONE SEAT ASSURED FOR EACH ZONE WITH LOWER POPULATION IN RURAL AREAS. FOR EXAMPLE, LUBUMBASHI (POO.551,975) HAS SIX SEATS, ELECTED AT LARGE, ALTHOUGH EACH VOTER CAN CHOOSE ONLY ONE NAME FROM LIST OF 67 LUBUMBASHI CANDIDATES. THOSE SIX CANDIDATES WITH HIGHEST VOTE ARE TO BE WINNERS. SMALLER RURAL ZONES LIKE NYUNZU (OPO 55,273) WHERE SIX LOCAL CANDIDATES HAVE PRESENTED THEMSELVES HAVE ONLY ONE SEAT.

4. CANDIDATE IN LUBUMBASHI WHO PROBABLY SPENT BY FAR THE MOST MONEY AND BY MOST ACCOUNTS SEEMED TO BE CERTAIN WINNER WAS TSHIANI MWANDIA-NVITE KALENGA, LOCAL GRAIN AND FISH MERCHANT OWNER OF IMPALA MOTEL IN KOLWEZI AND 1977 PARTICIPANT IN US EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM. HE ORGANIZED COMMITTEES IN EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD AND APPEARED BEFORE GROUPS OFFERING PLentiful REFRESHMENTS TO ALL AND GIFTS OF MONEY, RICE AND OTHER GOODS TO NEEDIEST. KNOWN AS ONE OF FEW SUCCESSFUL NON-ACQUERER ZAIRIAN LOCAL BUSINESSMEN, HIS CAMPAIGN STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF PRIVATE BUSINESS INTERESTS IN SHABA'S DEVELOPMENT AND GREATER ECONOMIC AUTONOMY FROM KINSHASA. TSHIANI SAID ONE OF HIS INSPIRATIONS FOR ENTERING POLITICS WAS MEETING WITH REP BARBARA JORDAN IN HOUSTON, DURING HIS VISIT TO THE US IN MARCH AND APRIL. SHE REPORTEDLY STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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SUCCESSFUL IN OTHER FIELDS. THOUGH TSHIANI HAS LOCAL REPUTATION AS OUTSPOKEN OPPONENT OF GOVERNMENT HE REFRAINED FROM DIRECT CRITICISM DURING CAMPAIGN HIS EXPECTED HIGH VOTE TOTAL AND GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS OF RICE AND HOTEL SPEACE DURING THE SHABAN WAR WILL PROBABLY CARRY SEAT FOR HIM.

5. OTHER POPULAR CANDIDATES THOUGHT TO BE:
TSHOMBE ISOJ KABWIT
LOCAL BUSINESSMAN AND BROTHER
OF BOTH MOISES AND WMANT YAV, NGONGO KASONGO MULANGA NZELA, DIRECTOR OF GM AFFILIATE/LUBUMBASHI: BIBOMBE MWAMBE PROFESSOR OF LAW AT UNAZA, KYUNGU WA KUMWANZA LUBUMBASHI BUSINESSMAN AND AN EXTREMELY OUTSPOKEN ANTI-KASAIN PRO KATANGAN NATIONALIST
AND MUKADI MUKOKO, MANAGER OF A PRINTING SHIP. OTHER CANDIDATES RANGED FROM PROFESSIONALS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO SPORTS FIGURES AND CHRONICALLY UNEMPLOYED. PRESENT LUBUMBASHI ZONE COMMISSIONER MEHTA MUTOMBO MUDIAYI WAS WELL-KNOWN CANDIDATE WHO WILL PROBABLY WIN BECAUSE OF KINSHASA CONNECTIONS ALTHOUGH NOT BY POPULAR VOTE BECAUSE OF HER SEX, SEVERAL

UNPOPULAR RECENT ACTIONS, REPORTED ARROGANCE
AND KNOWN SYMPATHY FOR KINSHASA GOVERNMRNT. ONE OF
MORE BIZARRE AND LEAST HIGHLY REGARDED CANDIDATES
WAS TSHIMANGA MUBIAYI WHO CLAIMED TO SPEAK 14 LANGUAGED
AND LISTED AS HIS MOST RECENT POSITION AD
MINISTRATOR AND FINANCIAL DIRECTOR OF THE PEACE CORPS
IN KINSHASA FROM 1973-1977(CONSULATE BELIEVES HE WAS
RELIVED OF THESE RESPONSIBILITIES IN JULY 1977
FOR STEALING)

6. STRONG DOUBTS PERSISTS ABOUT HONESTY IN HELPING
ILLITERATES TO VITE AND IN COUNING VOTES. STORY
CURRENTLY CIRCULATING THAT ONE UNPOPULAR ZONE COMMIS
SIONER WON HER POSITION TO ZONE COUNCIL AFTER INVITING
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POLLING STATIONS PRESIDENTS TO HAVE LUNCH WITH HER
WHILE HER TRUSTED LIEUTENANTS GUARDED BALLOT BOXES.
MOST FEEL THAT DISHONESTY IS LARGELY RESULT OF LOCAL
FAVORTISM OR TRIBAL JEALOUSIES RATHER THAN CONSCIOS
GOVERNMENT POLICY. VISTORS EXPECTED TO BE MIX OF
THOSE WHO ARE MOST GENUINELY POPULAR, THOSE IN
POSITION TO RIG COUNTING ON LOCAL LEVEL, AND ON SOME
OCCASIONS THOSE WHO ARE STBNG FAVORITES OF HIGH
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.
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